



NEWS RELEASE

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District: 05 – Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALTRANS' WELL-SEASONED DISTRICT 5 DIRECTOR RICHARD KRUMHOLZ TO RETIRE ON MONDAY

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Richard Krumholz, Caltrans District 5 Director, bids farewell on Monday, April 2, after serving the State of California for 33 years, the past six as District 5 Director, Caltrans officials today announced.

"I have been involved in local government since 1965 and have known each of the Caltrans District 5 Directors over the years. There is no doubt in my mind that Rich Krumholz has been the most capable and responsive District Director I have ever worked with," said Santa Maria Mayor Larry Lavagnino.

Krumholz began his transportation career as a college student working summers for a highway construction firm in Illinois. He graduated from Illinois State University in 1973. Rich began his Caltrans career in District 1, Eureka in 1979 as a Junior Engineering Technician. He was promoted to Transportation Engineer, working in Design, Maintenance, Construction and Advanced Planning over the course of ten years.

Caltrans presented a new career opportunity to Krumholz in 1989 when he transferred to District 1 Environmental Planning. He furthered his education at Humboldt State University in Natural Resources Planning.

Krumholz transferred to District 5 in San Luis Obispo in 1992 and in 1998 was promoted to District Branch Chief for Advanced System Planning. In 2002, Krumholz became the Deputy District Director for Planning and Local Programs.

On July 1, 2006, former Caltrans Director Will Kempton appointed Krumholz as the District Director for District 5. He managed all of Caltrans operations and 750 employees within the five-county Central Coast area. Krumholz believes that a quality transportation system provides a high measure of return for tax dollars and that every project, maintenance effort or planning document is a wise investment and essential to the transportation customers.





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Among the many transportation improvements that Krumholz helped to implement during his leadership were the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes project in Santa Cruz in 2008; the Highway 101/Santa Maria Six-Lane widening in 2009; the Highway 101/41 Atascadero interchange in 2010, the Highway 46 Widening (Phase I) completed last June; and the recently completed Highway 101/Airport Blvd Interchange in Salinas. Additionally, the \$53 million Highway 101/ Milpas-Hot Springs project in Santa Barbara will be completed next month.

During Krumholz's tenure, ongoing construction projects on the Central Coast doubled and today stand at nearly \$450 million. He brought collaborative leadership to Caltrans in relationships with the 33 cities, five counties and dozens of stakeholders groups. Krumholz also championed several innovative projects such as the Highway 246 Roundabout near Lompoc, the Highway 154/Cold Spring Bridge suicide barrier and Wildlife Protective Fencing along Highway 101 near Santa Margarita.

In addition, Krumholz oversaw an unprecedented, multi-million dollar effort to maintain, repair and improve scenic Highway 1 through the challenging Big Sur corridor between Cambria and Carmel.

Effective April 3, statewide Director of Programming Rachel Falsetti will serve as Interim District 5 Director until a permanent placement is made.

